

**Federal Transit Administration**

**Environmental Impact Statement:  
Peninsula Commute Service San  
Francisco Downtown Extension (PCS-  
DTX) Project in the San Francisco Bay  
Area, California**

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration,  
DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an  
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in cooperation with the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB), is resuming preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the PCS-DTX in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The PCJPB will ensure that the EIS also satisfies the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NEPA Lead Agency will be FTA. The CEQA Lead Agency will be the PCJPB.

The Peninsula Commute Service, commonly referred to as CalTrain, is the commuter rail system that serves the San Francisco Peninsula between Gilroy and the existing terminal station in San Francisco located at Fourth and Townsend Streets. The present location of the terminal is not considered desirable from a transportation, land

use, or public policy perspective. The proposed project would extend CalTrain to a new station closer to downtown San Francisco.

The project was determined by the Bay Area Partnership, a body of transportation officials representing different modes, regulatory agencies and federal agencies, to belong in the category of projects "requiring a Major Investment Study (MIS) but may be satisfied by prior studies". The consultation group convened to discuss MIS requirements for this project agreed that past corridor studies such as PENTAP, SCR 74, BART/SFO AA/DEIS, and the MTC/JPB CalTrain Downtown Extension/System Upgrades Study, satisfy MIS requirements and that the project could advance into preliminary engineering and environmental documentation.

**DATES:** Written comments on the alternatives and impacts to be considered must be postmarked no later than June 15, 1995, and send to PCJPB at the address below. Two public informational meetings will be held June 21, 1995 at 10 AM-noon and 5:30 PM-7:30 PM in Auditorium B, Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, San Francisco 94105. These meetings will mark the resumption of environmental studies and preparation of the EIS/EIR (see SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION below).

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to Ms. Marie Pang, Environmental Manager, PCS-DTX Project, Peninsula Corridor JPB, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306. Phone: (415) 508-6338.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Hom, Director, Program Development, FTA Region IX, 201 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94105. Phone: (415) 744-3116.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Scoping**

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS was previously published in the *Federal Register* on January 18, 1989. The Scoping Process began with two public scoping meetings on February 15, 1989. An Administrative Draft EIS was prepared in 1991 but was not circulated due to lack of local funding commitments for the project.

The project was held in abeyance until March, 1993, when the PCJPB conducted four public meetings to solicit public input on key project issues, including which alternatives deserved further consideration. As a result, the PCJPB, jointly with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), conducted a study to develop fundable extension alternatives and system upgrades that could be recommended by the PCJPB for inclusion in the MTC's financially constrained Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The study evaluated nine alternatives and the results were reviewed in public meetings. In March, 1994, the PCJPB designated Alternative 8B (extension of CalTrain to an underground terminal at Beale and Market Streets) of that study as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for inclusion in the RTP. This alternative was subsequently included in the 1994 RTP adopted by MTC after extensive public review. The PCJPB is now resuming environmental studies for the preparation of a Draft EIS/EIR for public review and comment.

The public informational meetings will announce resumption of environmental studies. The environmental process will be outlined, and the public will be invited to become involved in this process through the Public Participation/Consensus Building Program that will be implemented for this project. The public will be invited to comment on all aspects of the project, including alignments, station design, and the environmental, social and economic impacts to be analyzed. The public will also be notified of future informational meetings and workshops as the studies progress.

**II. Description of Study Area**

The Peninsula Commute Service traverses three counties (San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara) from San Francisco to Gilroy for a distance of approximately 77 miles. However, most of the proposed project is located in the City of San Francisco, in an area generally bounded by Market Street, the Embarcadero, China Basin Channel,

Sixteenth Street, Seventh Street, Bryant Street and Second Street. The primary east-west corridors are along Brannan, Townsend and King Streets; primary north-south corridors are along Beale Street and Colin P. Kelly/Essex Streets (to the Transbay Terminal). The proposed station location is at Beale and Market Streets; however, the existing Transbay Transit Terminal location will also be evaluated in the event the LPA location proves infeasible.

**III. Alternatives**

Three alternatives with sub-options emerged from the evaluation and public involvement processes conducted previously. These alternatives will be evaluated in the DEIS/DEIR as follows:

- Alternative 1—No Build. The San Francisco station would remain at 4th and Townsend.

- Alternative 2 (The Proposed Project [LPA])—CalTrain would be extended to a station at Beale and Market Streets with the following routing and fuel options:

*Option A*—CalTrain would be routed on the surface along Townsend Street to 4th Street, underground via cut and cover under public streets from 4th Street to Market and Beale Streets. King and Brannan Streets, would be considered should Townsend Street prove infeasible. Full system electrification is included in this option.

*Option B*—Same as Option A, except existing locomotives with diesel power would be used or would be converted to liquefied natural gas.

*Option C*—Same as Option A, except that a direct mined or bored tunnel alignment would be used from approximately 3rd Street to approximately Harrison and Beale Streets to the properties in the South Beach Area.

- Alternative 3—CalTrain would be extended to a station at the existing Transbay Transit Terminal location. The PCS would be routed on the surface along Townsend Street, underground via cut and cover and/or mined tunnel to Folsom/Essex Streets and from there to a new or rehabilitated Transbay Transit Terminal. King or Brannan Streets would be considered should Townsend prove infeasible. Full system electrification is included in this alternative.

**IV. Probable Effects**

Impacts proposed for analysis include changes in the physical environment (air quality, noise, water quality, geology, visual); changes in the social environment (land use, business disruptions, and neighborhoods); changes in traffic and pedestrian

circulation; impacts on parklands and historic sites; changes in transit service and partonage; associated changes in highway congestion; capital, operating and maintenance costs; and financial implications. Impacts will be identified both for the construction period and for the long term operation of the alternatives. The proposed evaluation criteria include transportation, environmental, social, economic and financial measures as required by current Federal (NEPA) and State (CEQA) environmental laws and current Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and FTA guidelines. Mitigating measures will be explored for adverse impacts that are identified.

Issued on: May 12, 1995.

Stewart F. Taylor,

Region IX Administrator.

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